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THE UNCANNY



TM

DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND
COLOSSUS?
WE'RE YOUR
FRIENDS!



HE WAS ONE OF THE X-MEN--
NOW, HE'S THE **POWER-MAD**
PROLETARIAN!



Cyclops. Storm. Banshee. Nightcrawler. Wolverine. Colossus. Children of the atom, students of Charles Xavier, **MUTANTS**—feared and hated by the world they have sworn to protect. These are the **STRANGEST** heroes of all!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

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He only laughs when I HURT!



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"THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED THAT I HAD A GREAT AND UNIQUE TALENT FOR MURDER. WITHIN A YEAR, I WAS THE BEST HIT-MAN IN THE STATES-- AND I WAS BORED STIFF.

"Y-SEE, LADIES, ANY FOOL CAN KILL-- I WANTED TO DO IT WITH STYLE.

"IT WAS AN INSTANT SUCCESS. BUT BEFORE LONG, I WAS BORED AGAIN. SURE, I'D BUILT MY DISNEYLAND OF DEATH.

"SO, I COMBINED MY GENIUS WITH DADDY'S FORTUNE AND CREATED **MURDERWORLD**-- THE FIRST ASSASSINATION AMUSEMENT PARK.

"WHAT I NEEDED NOW WAS A Foe **WORTHY** OF IT-- AND ME.

"THEN, ALONG CAME MESSERS. ROAK AND MORAN, MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN MAGGIA HEIRARCHY-- OFFERING A CONTRACT ON AN ENGLISH SUPERHERO, **CAP'N BRITAIN**.

"CAP AND-- THE AMAZING **SPIDER-MAN**! IT WAS TRULY A FIGHT TO REMEMBER. THEY BEAT ME ON MY OWN TURF, FAIR AND SQUARE, AND I LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT."

"I SAID YES, AND ENDED UP BAGGING TWO HEROES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE...

"MTU #65-66. --ROGER.

"I WAS GETTING SET FOR A REMATCH WITH THE WALL-CRAWLER WHEN BLACK TOM CASSIDY AND CAIN MARKO-- THE **JUGGERNAUT**-- MADE ME AN OFFER I COULDN'T REFUSE.

WELL, ARCADE--
WHAT'S YOUR
DECISION?

GENTLEMEN,
AS OF RIGHT
NOW, THE X-MEN
ARE AS GOOD
AS DEAD!

CAPTURING THEM TURNED OUT TO BE A CINCH. START TO FINISH, I CORRALLED THE ENTIRE TEAM-- WITH YOUR LOVELY LADIES AS AN UNEXPECTED BONUS-- INSIDE OF AN HOUR."

THEY NEVER
KNEW WHAT
HIT THEM.

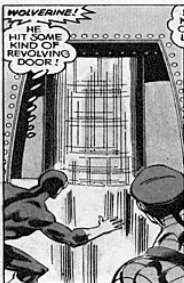
"LAST ISSUE. --R.





DUMB--REAL DUMB. I SHOULD'A REMEMBERED THAT PETEY'S A LOT FASTER THAN HE LOOKS. I BETTER--HEY!!

THE WALL'S MOVIN'!



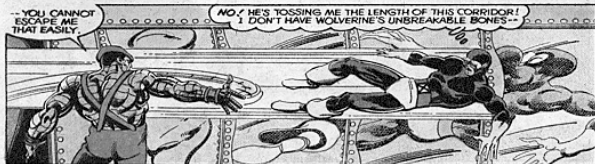
WOLVERINE!
HE HIT SOME KIND OF REVOLVING DOOR!



I'D BETTER GET AFTER HIM. LORD KNOWS WHAT SORT OF TRAPS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE--AND IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH COLOSSUS.

TOO LATE! THE DOOR'S SEALED SHUT!

COMRADE--



--YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME THAT EASILY.

NO! HE'S TOSSING ME THE LENGTH OF THIS CORRIDOR! I DON'T HAVE WOLVERINE'S UNBREAKABLE BONES--



--THE IMPACT WILL SPLATTER ME ALL OVER THE--

--WALL?

LENIN'S GHOST!

ANOTHER SECRET DOOR!



I HAVE FAILED. CYCLOPS AND WOLVERINE BOTH STILL LIVE. I...

...AM GLAD.

WHAT AM I SAYING?! THEY ARE ENEMIES OF THE STATE!



COLONEL VASHIN OF THE KGB TOLD ME SO. I REMEMBER... HIS VOICE, LIGHTS... BURNING THROUGH TO MY VERY SOUL...

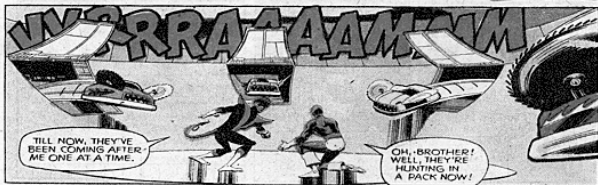
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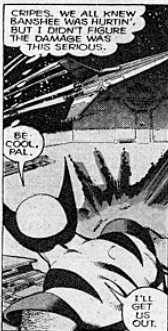


...SHOWING ME WHERE MY DUTY LIES. I MUST FIND THE X-MEN--

--AND THIS TIME, I MUST NOT FAIL!









THEN AGAIN,
I COULD
BE WRONG.

GLORY!

MAGNETO AND
THE HULK -- HOW'D
THEY GET HERE?!

CRETINS, THERE IS NO ESCAPE
FROM MURDERWORLD?



SORRY 'BOUT THIS, I CHUMPS,
BUT SPIDER-MAN ALREADY
USED THAT PARTICULAR
ROUTE -- AND NO ONE GETS
TO FAKE OUT ARCADE THE
SAME WAY TWICE.

TEK



MEANWHILE, IN WHAT COULD WELL
BECOME A WATERY GRAVE...

I HAVE TO MOVE
FAST -- BUT I
MUSTN'T PANIC.

MUST REMEMBER
MY TRAINING -- STAY
IN CONTROL,
STAY ALIVE!

FIRST, I'VE
GOT TO DUMP
MY CAPE AND
BOOTS. I
CAN'T AFFORD
TO HAVE THEM
DRAG SLOW
ME DOWN.



NOW -- SLOW, DEEP
BREATHS, AS MANY
AS I CAN GET.

LIKE A PEARL
DIVER, I HAVE
TO SATURATE MY
LUNGS, MY BODY,
WITH OXYGEN BE-
FORE I TAKE MY
FINAL BREATH.



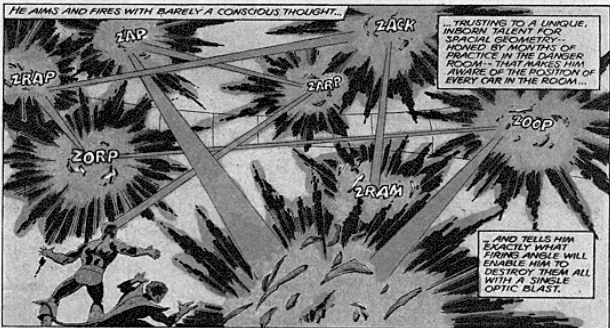
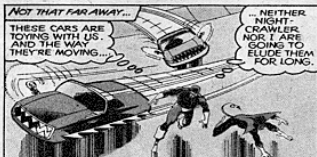
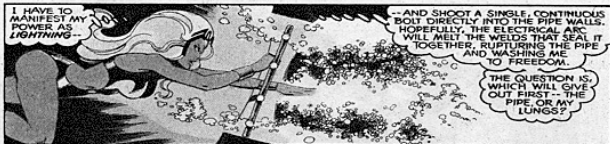
THE WATER HAS TO BE
ENTERING THE ROOM
THROUGH A PIPE
OR VENT.

THAT'S IT -- EITHER
I FIND AN EXIT IN
THE NEXT FEW
MINUTES, OR I DIE.



ALL I HAVE TO DO IS
FOLLOW THIS FAINT
CURRENT BACK TO
ITS SOURCE --

...THERE!



PERFECT. MY FIRST SHOT TOOK CARE OF THE CARS-- MY SECOND MADE US AN INSTANT EXIT.

AFTER YOU, NIGHTCRAWLER.

DANKE. I THINK.

THIS IS SOME KIND OF MAINTENANCE TUNNEL-- LOOKS DESERTED, TOO.

I HATE TO SPLIT US UP, BUT WE'VE NO ALTERNATIVE.

YOU TAKE THE MAIN TUNNEL UP THERE--

--AND I'LL TAKE THIS BRANCH LINE. IF YOU FIND ANY OTHER X-MEN, TRY TO HELP THEM. IF YOU FIND ARCADE'S CONTROL CENTER...

I KNOW... TRASH IT?

TROUBLE, ARCADE.

STORM'S GENERATING MORE POWER THAN THE SYSTEM CAN ABSORB. WE CAN'T HOLD HER MUCH LONGER.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE GIRLS, ARCADE. I'VE... TAKEN CARE OF THEM.

PERMANENTLY. I HOPE. START A COMPUTER SEARCH PATTERN, MISS LOCKE-- I'VE LOST NIGHTCRAWLER AND CYCLOPS.

THE TUNNEL'S PROBABLY CRAMMED WITH SENSORS-- SOONER OR LATER, ARCADE'S BOUND TO FIND US.

I TRIED USIN' ME SONIC SCREAM ON THIS ROBOT MAGNETO, BUT THE PAIN WAS TOO GREAT. ME POWERS... USELESS!

BUT IT'S --HAM?? SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT.

I BEEN WAITIN' MONTHS FOR A REMATCH WITH THE HULK! * TOO BAD YOU AIN'T THE REAL THING!

* SINCE HULK #21. --ROGER.



AT THAT MOMENT, UNAWARE OF NIGHTCRAWLER'S FATE...



WHAT GIVES?! I'VE NEVER HEARD SEAN SOUND SO DISPIRITED.

CYKE-- LISTEN, DYE HEAR SOME-THIN'?



YEAH-- AND IT'S COMING THIS WAY.



IN PART AT LEAST, STORM'S GAMBLE HAS FINALLY PAID OFF, HER LIGHTNING BOLTS SHATTERING NOT ONLY THE WATER PIPE...



AS THE DELUGE SUBSIDES...



SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS-- BARELY BREATHING. IF I DON'T ACT FAST, SHE'LL DIE!



C'MON, ORORO, BREATHE! BREATHE!



FOR A LONG TIME-- TOO LONG, CYCLOPS FEARS-- NOTHING HAPPENS, AND THEN...

C-cy-3kloff!E







...IT WAS SO EASY TO BELIEVE! ARCADE'S ROBOT PORTRAYED A REAL KGB COLONEL--A NATIONAL HERO, LIKE COSMONAUT GAGARIN OR YOUR NICHOLAS FURY--AND HIS ACCUSATIONS ECHOED MY OWN REAL DOUBTS ABOUT BEING AN X-MAN.

DOUBTS!

HEY, WATCH IT--THE FLOOR!

AGAIN, BEFORE ANY OF THEM CAN REACT, THEY'RE CAUGHT AND SENT ON THEIR WAY.

AND COMPARED TO THIS RIDE...

...BOTH ARCADE'S GIANT PINBALL MACHINE AND THE FLOOD COULD ALMOST BE CONSIDERED FUN.

FINALLY, AFTER WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY TO THE BRUISED AND BATTERED X-MEN, THEIR CRAMPED CAPSULE EASES TO A GENTLE STOP.

DAWN... IN A LONG-ABANDONED BRONX AMUSEMENT CENTER...

FOR A LONG MOMENT, THE METAL BALL BOBS LAZILY IN THE STILL WATERS, AND THEN...

SKRAMM

AM I DREAMING? WE ARE ON THE SURFACE, IN SOME SORT OF AMUSEMENT PARK!

HERE, ORORO, LET ME HELP YOU.

SCOTTY-- BEHIND YE, MAN!

FIREWORKS?!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

THE MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE YEAR!

ITEM! Talk about your close call! A few weeks ago, a boodle of bullpeners gathered at the home of Ramblin' Roger and Devilish Dickie McKenzie for coffee, cards and cupcakes. As you might expect, everyone had a wild and crazy time...but the evening was very nearly marred by tragedy! The party was winding down when Marv Wolfman set out in his Pinto for his house in Flushing. He had only gone twenty or so blocks when suddenly his car was slammed from behind while making a turn! The poor Pinto was instantly twisted into a total wreck! Somehow, though, Marv emerged from the disaster shaken, but without serious injury, and miraculously, the other driver was also unhurt. We're all very happy that only the cars were crunched, but for Michele Wolfman, baby Jessica, all of us here in the Bullpen, and Marv's trillion or so fans, it was a bit too close for comfort!



ITEM! Speaking of Marvelous Marv, have we got a treat for you Wolfmanites, Fantastic Four freaks and literature lovers! It's *Doomsday*, the novel, featuring an all-new epic starring the fabulous FF, written by, yep, our own Mr. Wolfman! Marv isn't talking much about what's inside the book, and whenever we ask him, he just puts on his big, smug mad-it-and-see grin. We've learned from past experience not to doubt the significance of that grin, so we'd humbly advise you to buy a copy, and if you can bear to stop feasting your eyes on the gorgeous Bob Larkin cover painting, read it. After you're finished, and your molecules have settled, get ready for another plunge into adventure, with *Captain America* in his own novel, entitled *Holocaust for Hire!* This stunning tale is by Joseph Silva, who did such a bang-up job on the first Hulk novel a while back, but Marv's involved in this one too, as one of the co-editors (that guy is everywhere!). Should we mention that Dave Cockrum painted the cover? Or will that cause riots at the bookstores as his Legion of fans fight over the last few copies? Oh, well...just follow the crowd to wherever Simon & Schuster Pocket Books are sold and take a mere \$1.75 with you for each novel, friends. And keep

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Face front, frantic ones! This is it! I promise to clear you in about out-top-secret Project X, and far be it from me to hold out on the hallowed herds of Marveldom Assembled! But first, a little background...

Remember how we've often discussed the fact that comicbooks are the most maligned members of the media world? For years your Marvel Bullpen has been trying to bring them the recognition and acclaim they so richly deserve. We've striven to produce a comicbook that would take the public by storm; a masterpiece to thrill our devotees and detractors alike. We're talking about a true work of art, a colossal collection of the finest in story and illustration, printed on superb paper, with colors so vivid they're almost on fire! It would be a visual-blast, a feast for the eyes, presenting the greatest talents from every nation on earth as well as the most gifted legend makers Marvel has to offer! It would be higher priced, but still the bargain of the century!

Okay! We're gonna do it! Even as I write these history-making words, the mightiest comicbook bullpen of all time is excitedly preparing, perfecting, and producing the most unbelievably spectacular first issue of a fantasy comicbook you've ever dreamed possible! You'll notice I keep calling it a comicbook—for it is a comicbook—but it's the ultimate comicbook—the version we've

been fated to bring you since Marvel began! Yes, this is the project for which Marvel was surely destined—the creation that will change the image of comicbooks for all time to come!

The title? *ODYSEY!* Remember it! *ODYSEY!* "A prolonged voyage. An intellectual or spiritual quest!" *ODYSEY!* A senses-staggering journey into the most dazzling worlds of unbribed imagination! *ODYSEY!* An awesome, eye-filling explosion of high-tension excitement that'll leave you breathless! *ODYSEY!* In case you haven't guessed, we're subtly suggesting that thou shalt not miss the first, fabulous, limited-edition issue—of—what's that name again?—oh yeah! *ODYSEY!*

Now look, you know I try to avoid too much huckstering in this cultural little column of mine; but this isn't an ordinary sales pitch, honest! I wouldn't be fair to you if I didn't alert you to the most dynamically different magazine we've ever produced; the magazine which is certain to be a new milestone in the history of comics—the most talked-about, sought-after publication of the decade!

Hey, it's on the drawing board right now! We'll give you the final details next ish. *ODYSEY!* Comicbooks will never be the same again!

Excellent!

Stan

your guard up, will ya? We warned you!

ITEM! Every now and then there comes a landmark in the ever-unfolding modern mythology that is the Marvel Universe—*MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE* #54 is one of them. The story is a powerful one, scripted by Ralph Macchio and Mark Gruenwald, and the art, by John Byrne and Joe Sinnott, is superb. What separates this from other equally beautiful works, however, is that in this issue a major Marvel character—a hero—dies! Do not miss it!

ITEM! We're becoming more and more impressed with the scripting of one Mary Jo Duffy, and from the mail we've read, you are too! That's not news, unless you've been on *Tierra del Fuego* for the last six months. The news is that with a little help from another rising star, Trevor von Eden, long time superstar, Frank Springer, and a few other fabulous folks, MJ has concocted issue #58 of *POWER MAN/JIRON FIST*, and it's merely terrific! Wait'll you meet *El Aguilá*, the most sensa-

tional super foe to make the scene in ages. His name is Spanish, of course, and it means "The Eagle". A certain delightful artist is responsible for brainstorming, designing, and suggesting *El Aguilá* to Mary Jo—and we'll give a no-prize to the first ten readers who recognize his distinctive approach and zip a postcard off to us correctly identifying him. Go go go it, gang! Grab your copy before they're all gone!

ITEM! The seventeenth issue of *SPIDER-WOMAN* is on sale now, and it features a new character who...well, all we can say is, you don't know weird till you've seen the *Waxman*!

ITEM! And while we're talking about new characters, we hasten to introduce the two newest characters in the Bullpen, namely Lovely Linda Florio, sparkling secretary and Rapid Ron Zalmer, peerless production person! Welcome aboard, troops!

ITEM! Just a reminder—be careful making those left hand turns! We want to see you all in thirty. And bring your friends!

THE ALL NEW FANTASTIC FOUR IS HERE!

THE BOLDEST,
MOST EXCITING
ANIMATED ACTION
SERIES IS
SMASH HIT OF
THE SEASON!



CO-PRODUCED
BY MARVEL'S
NEW SATURDAY
MORNINGS ON
NBC THE PLACE
TO BE
'NUFF SAID!

ALL NEW!
HERDIE, THE ROBOT!



X-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Chris and John,

X-MEN #118, like all the other issues you two turn out, was perfect. John's fluid artwork coupled with Chris's brilliant characterizations gives the X-MEN a humane quality so lacking in other comic books today. Perhaps what I enjoy the most about them is their closeness and friendship with each other despite their occasional bickerings. Friendship is one of the greatest attributes of mankind and it is so refreshing to see it exemplified through the X-Men. Moving along, my first reaction to Sunfire—what an egomaniac! I hope his having to be saved by the X-Men during the fight brought him down a peg or two. Also, I want to thank you for finally letting Nightcrawler get in on the action. I suspect he was becoming rather disenchanted with his role as shown by the dirty look he gave Cyclops on page 7 of X-MEN #115. Finally, I would like to place my nomination for best scene of the year. What else could it be but the scene where a rough, sometimes crude Wolverine meets a timid, gentle Mariko, and promptly loses his heart to her. Please let their friendship develop further and leave Jean to Scott. Wolverine needs the tenderness of Mariko, not the raging fury of Phoenix, to quell the bestial side of him. Also, could you please clear up the mystery surrounding Wolverine? Each issue brings the reader some new insight into his past and it would be nice if you would pull it all together.

Kathy Smith
Danvers, MA

Dear Marvel,

If not for your beautiful cover and dynamic artwork, I doubt if I would truly have enjoyed X-MEN #118. The plot had me terribly confused, trying to decide whether the firestorm had been caused by an earthquake (as stated by Wolverine) or by firebombing (as extrapolated by Matsunaga, Nightcrawler's sailor friend). Things moved too quickly and without reason; the X-Men are travelling to the Yashida ancestral mansion without helping any Japanese along the way, Sunfire pouncing on them as if they were fugitives, the Prime Minister wanting to talk to the X-Men but never getting around to it, all the X-Men wandering off in the mansion when they should've been trying to get home, and countless other things. You're lucky I let them pass by this month; I'm hoping there'll be a rational explanation next month, 'cause I don't feel like degrading my favorite comic now.

David C. Zimmermann
157 Lemay Gardens Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63126

Neither do we, David. To take your points in order: the firestorm was caused by the earthquake rupturing oil, gasoline and natural gas pipelines and storage tanks and then the contents of those tanks being ignited. A firestorm, by the way (for those of you who wondered why Storm couldn't put it out), is a monumental fire, so huge and powerful that it cannot be

extinguished by normal means. Its core is literally a pillar of flame hundreds of feet tall, that turns the area around it into something akin to an open-air blast furnace. To combat such a holocaust, Storm would have had to create a typhoon over the city, which would itself have caused far more damage over a far greater area. Anyway, Chris thought he made it clear that the earthquake was responsible; guess he was wrong. Regarding the trek to Sunfire's house—page 7, panel 1, caption 1 mentions them being delayed again and again by their efforts to help local rescue teams; there just wasn't room to show it. Re: Sunfire's greeting—you'd probably be pretty antsy, too, if a madman had just made good on a threat to destroy St. Louis. Also, Scott is in conference with the Prime Minister on page 15. And, finally, why shouldn't the X-Men wander off and relax... In that kind of situation, one assumes they figured—or were told by Cyclops—to assume a low profile and stay out of people's way. All clear, Dave?

Sirs:

Bravo! Brenda Robinett's emotive letter deserves our support and was enough to wake me up, and give her mine! Jean Grey has been getting the short end of the stick lately, and I think you should either quit it or at least tell us what's going on!

More so than most Marvel characters, Jeanie has paid her share of dues—as Marvel Girl her telekinetic powers were often overtaxed, despite her being trained by Prof. X until her psi powers were close to his own. Her romance with Scott has given both of them years of emotional strain with few rewards. Finally, she's no mere 'Child of the Atom' anymore—she actually *gave her life* to save her fellow X-Men in the shuttlecraft! Her incredible powers seemed a fitting reward for this ultimate sacrifice—her miraculous rebirth is the source of her new identity, after all! Let's get into her head a little more.

I've been an X-MEN reader since #1, and while I can't deny that you're the leader in concept and artwork nowadays, I'd sure like to see Jean get her share of power and happiness—it's been long overdue. Give Phoenix her full potential without these "burnouts"! Her powers are new and versatile, if erratic. She's not just a slagger. Since the incident, her mental powers have multiplied to who-knows-what! PLEASE let her actualize this potential.

Ian Deeley
5th Special Forces
Ft. Bragg, NC 28307

We'll do our best, Ian. But along the way, we feel obliged to point out a misconception that seems to be causing no end of trouble for our readers. Time and again, we read and hear references to Scott and Jean's 14 year romance. If that were the case—assuming they were 18 and 17 years old respectively when they met—both of them would be in their early to middle thirties! However, as they *aren't* in their thirties, they can't possibly have been together 14 years. In fact, the rule of thumb used at Marvel is that it's been maybe five or six years since Xavier founded the X-Men, if that—which means that Jean and Scott have been together and in love for maybe three or four years. So, there are still a lot of things each has to learn about the other, and a lot of things that can go wrong. That's not to say that they will...but they might.

NEXT ISSUE: For those of you who may be wondering what the fuss is all about, we proudly re-introduce—in her considerable glory—*Phoenix!* Hang onto your hats, people, because the X-Men are about to be reunited—but first, Jean Grey, Moira MacTaggart, Lorna Dane, Alex Summers and Jamie Madrox have to discover: "THERE'S SOMETHING AWFUL ON MUIR ISLAND!"

